

ABSTRACT

A retarder comprising a substrate, a first optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi$  at 550 nm, and a second optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi/2$  at 550 nm is disclosed. At least either one of the rod-like liquid-crystal compounds is denoted by Formula (I)  $Q^1-L^1-A^1-L^3-M-L^4-A^2-L^2-Q^2$ : where  $Q^1$  and  $Q^2$  denote polymerizable groups;  $L^1$  to  $L^4$  denote single bonds or divalent linking groups provided that at least either of  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  represents  $-O-CO-O-$ ;  $A^1$  and  $A^2$  denote C2-20 spacer groups and M denotes a mesogen group; and an in-plane slow axis of the second layer and an in-plane slow axis of the first layer cross substantially at 60 degrees.